

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): An observation device comprising:
a housing comprising:
an outer dome having at least one transparent portion; and
an inner dome disposed within the outer dome, wherein the inner dome has a variable thickness; and
an optical lens having a field of view,
wherein the optical lens is accommodated within the housing,
wherein the outer dome is transparent in the field of view of the lens,
wherein the outer dome is configured to protect the lens,
wherein the observation device is resistant to impact by an object with a maximum impact energy of a first magnitude,
wherein a like observation device but lacking an inner dome is resistant to impact by said object with a maximum impact energy of a second magnitude, and
wherein the ratio between the first magnitude and the second magnitude is at least 1.1.
2. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the ratio between said first magnitude and said second magnitude is at least 1.2.
3. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the outer dome is maximally about 5.0 mm.
4. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein a spacing between an outer side of the inner dome and an inner side of the outer dome is maximally about 5.0 mm.
5. (Canceled):
6. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, further comprising:
means for manipulating the lens.

7. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 6, wherein the means for manipulating the lens are arranged for joint manipulation of the lens and the inner dome.

8. (Previously Presented) An observation device according to claim 6, further comprising:

a driver configured to drive the means for manipulating the lens.

9. (Previously Presented): The observation device according to claim 6, wherein the lens is elastically connected to the means for manipulating the lens.

10. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the inner dome has a closed surface.

11. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the inner dome is provided with a free passage at the field of view.

12. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to a claim 1, wherein the inner dome is at least partially made of a material selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, ABS, and metal.

13. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the inner dome consists of one layer.

14. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the outer dome consists of one layer.

15. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the inner dome is configured to be manipulated with respect to the outer dome.

16. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a base element, and wherein the outer dome is attached to the base element by means of a threaded connection along a circumferential portion of the outer dome.

17. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 1, wherein the ratio between said first magnitude and said second magnitude is at least 1.4.

18. (Previously Presented): An observation device according to claim 13, wherein the outer dome consists of one layer.

19. (New) The observation device according to claim 1, wherein a wall of the inner dome includes thickened portions.

20. (New): An observation device comprising:

a housing comprising:
an outer dome having at least one transparent portion; and
an inner dome disposed within the outer dome;
an optical lens having a field of view; and
means for manipulating the lens,
wherein the optical lens is accommodated within the housing,
wherein the outer dome is transparent in the field of view of the lens,
wherein the outer dome is configured to protect the lens,
wherein the observation device is resistant to impact by an object with a
maximum impact energy of a first magnitude,
wherein a like observation device but lacking an inner dome is resistant to
impact by said object with a maximum impact energy of a second magnitude,
wherein the ratio between the first magnitude and the second magnitude is at
least 1.1, and
wherein the lens is elastically connected to the means for manipulating the
lens.

21. (New): An observation device comprising:
a housing comprising:
an outer dome having at least one transparent portion; and
an inner dome disposed within the outer dome; and
an optical lens having a field of view,
wherein the optical lens is accommodated within the housing,
wherein the outer dome is transparent in the field of view of the lens,
wherein the outer dome is configured to protect the lens,
wherein the observation device is resistant to impact by an object with a
maximum impact energy of a first magnitude,
wherein a like observation device but lacking an inner dome is resistant to
impact by said object with a maximum impact energy of a second magnitude,
wherein the ratio between the first magnitude and the second magnitude is at least 1.1, and

wherein the housing comprises a base element, and wherein the outer dome is attached to the base element by means of a threaded connection along a circumferential portion of the outer dome.